



Solving routing and scheduling problems using LocalSolver

Set-based modeling in LocalSolver 6.5

www.localsolver.com

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Who we are



Bouygues, one of the French largest corporation, €33 bn in revenues
<http://www.bouygues.com>

Innovation24

Operations Research subsidiary of Bouygues
20 years of practice and research
<http://www.innovation24.fr>

LocalSolver

Mathematical optimization solver
developed by Innovation 24
<http://www.localsolver.com>



Swiss Army Knife for math optimization

All-terrain

Discrete & Numerical

Fast & Scalable

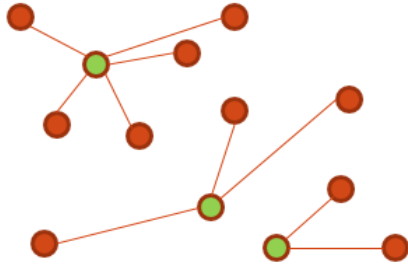
But... \neq MIP \neq CP



Clients

- Construction    
- Medias & Advertising    
- Telco & Retail    
- Large Industry     
- Energy     
- Banking & Finance    
- Transportation   
- Logistics    
- Food & Agribusiness   
- Aerospace & Defense    
- IT Services     

Facility location



Select a subset P among N points minimizing the sum of distances from each point in N to the nearest point in P

```
function model() {  
  x[1..N] <- bool() ; // decisions: point i belongs to P if x[i] = 1  
  constraint sum[i in 1..N]( x[i] ) == P ; // constraint: P points selected among N  
  minDist[i in 1..N] <- min[j in 1..N]( x[j] ? Dist[i][j] : InfiniteDist ) ; // expressions: distance to the nearest point in P  
  minimize sum[i in 1..N]( minDist[i] ) ; // objective: to minimize the sum of distances  
}
```

Nothing else to write: “model & run” approach

- Straightforward, natural mathematical model
- Direct resolution: no tuning

Mathematical operators

Decisional	Arithmetical			Logical	Relational	Set
bool	sum	sub	prod	not	eq	count
float	min	max	abs	and	neq	indexof
int	div	mod	sqrt	or	geq	partition
list	log	exp	pow	xor	leq	disjoint
	cos	sin	tan	iif	gt	
	floor	ceil	round	array+at	lt	
	dist	scalar		piecewise		

+ operator **call** : to call an external native function
which can be used to implement your own (black-box) operator



Motivations

Modeling approaches for
the Traveling Salesman Problem



MIP modeling

Classical formulation [Dantzig, Fulkerson & Johnson, 1954]

- Variable for each edge \rightarrow linear number of variables
- Exponential number of constraints \rightarrow iterative subtour elimination scheme

Flow-based formulation [Gavish & Graves, 1978]

- Quadratic number of variables
- Quadratic number of constraints

In Orman & Williams (2006): "A survey of different integer programming formulations of the TSP"



Natural modeling

TSP as a permutation

The Traveling Salesman Problem (TSP)

TSP: Given a list of cities and their pairwise distances, find a shortest possible tour that visits each city exactly once.

Objective: find a permutation a_1, \dots, a_n of the cities that minimizes

$$d(a_1, a_2) + d(a_2, a_3) + \dots + d(a_{n-1}, a_n) + d(a_n, a_1)$$

where $d(i, j)$ is the distance between cities i and j



An optimal TSP tour through Germany's 15 largest cities

In Rosen (2012): "Discrete mathematics and its applications"

Set-based modeling

Innovative modeling concepts
for routing & scheduling problems



List variables

Structured decisional operator `list(n)`

- Order a **subset** of values in domain $\{0, \dots, n-1\}$
- Each value is **unique** in the list

Classical operators to interact with “list”

- **count**(u): number of values selected in the list
- **at**(u,i) or `u[i]`: value at index i in the list
- **indexOf**(u,v): index of value v in the list
- **disjoint**(u1, u2, ..., uk): true if u1, u2, ..., uk are pairwise disjoint
- **partition**(u1, u2, ..., uk): true if u1, u2, ..., uk induce a partition of $\{0, \dots, n-1\}$



Traveling salesman

```
function model() {  
  x <- list(N); // order n cities {0, ..., n-1} to visit  
  constraint count(x) == N; // exactly n cities to visit  
  minimize sum[i in 1..N-1]( Dist[ x[i-1] ][ x[i] ] )  
    + Dist[ x[N-1] ][ x[0] ] ; // minimize sum of traveled distances  
}
```

TSP: Given a list of cities and their pairwise distances, find a shortest possible tour that visits each city exactly once.

Objective: find a permutation a_1, \dots, a_n of the cities that minimizes

$$d(a_1, a_2) + d(a_2, a_3) + \dots + d(a_{n-1}, a_n) + d(a_n, a_1)$$

where $d(i, j)$ is the distance between cities i and j



An optimal TSP tour through Germany's 15 largest cities



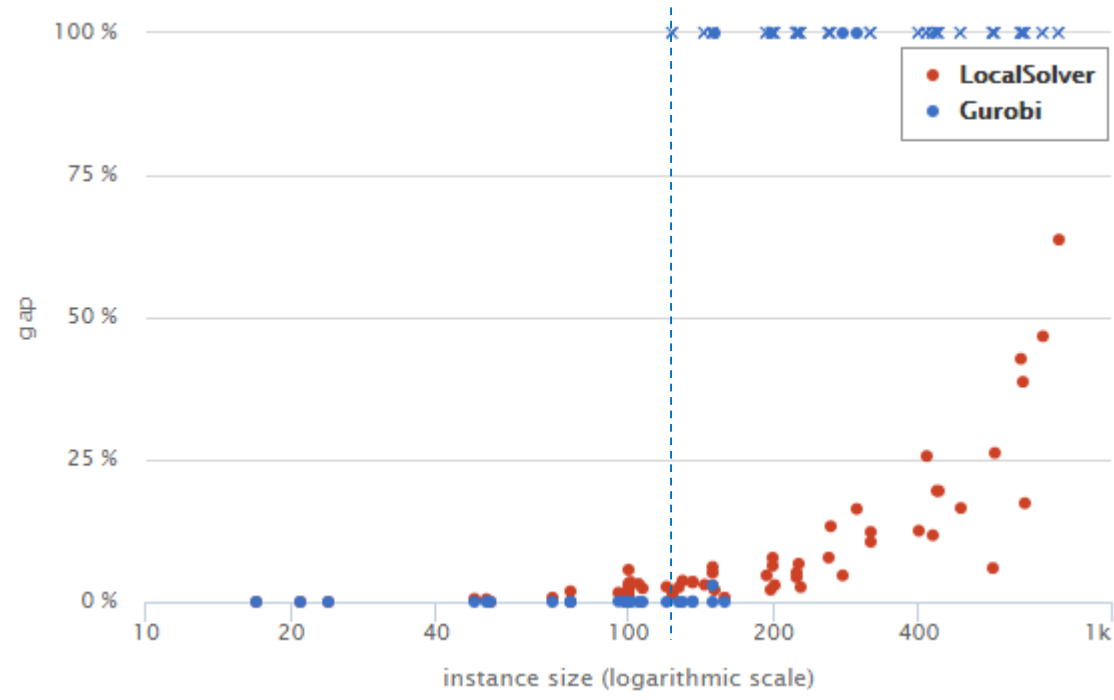
Comparison with MIP

TSP Lib instances

- Symmetric
- Size: 21 to 800 cities

x ⇔ no solution found

10 seconds



Gurobi 6.0
LocalSolver 6.0



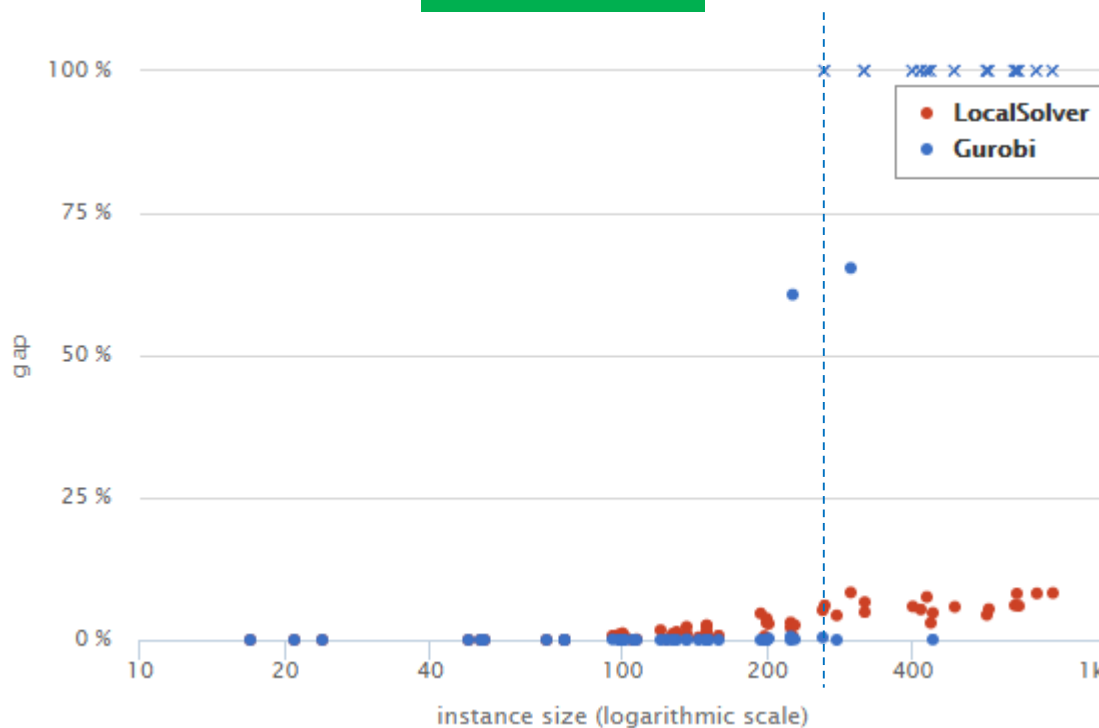
Comparison with MIP

TSP Lib instances

- Symmetric
- Size: 21 to 800 cities

x ⇔ no solution found

3 minutes



Gurobi 6.0

LocalSolver 6.0

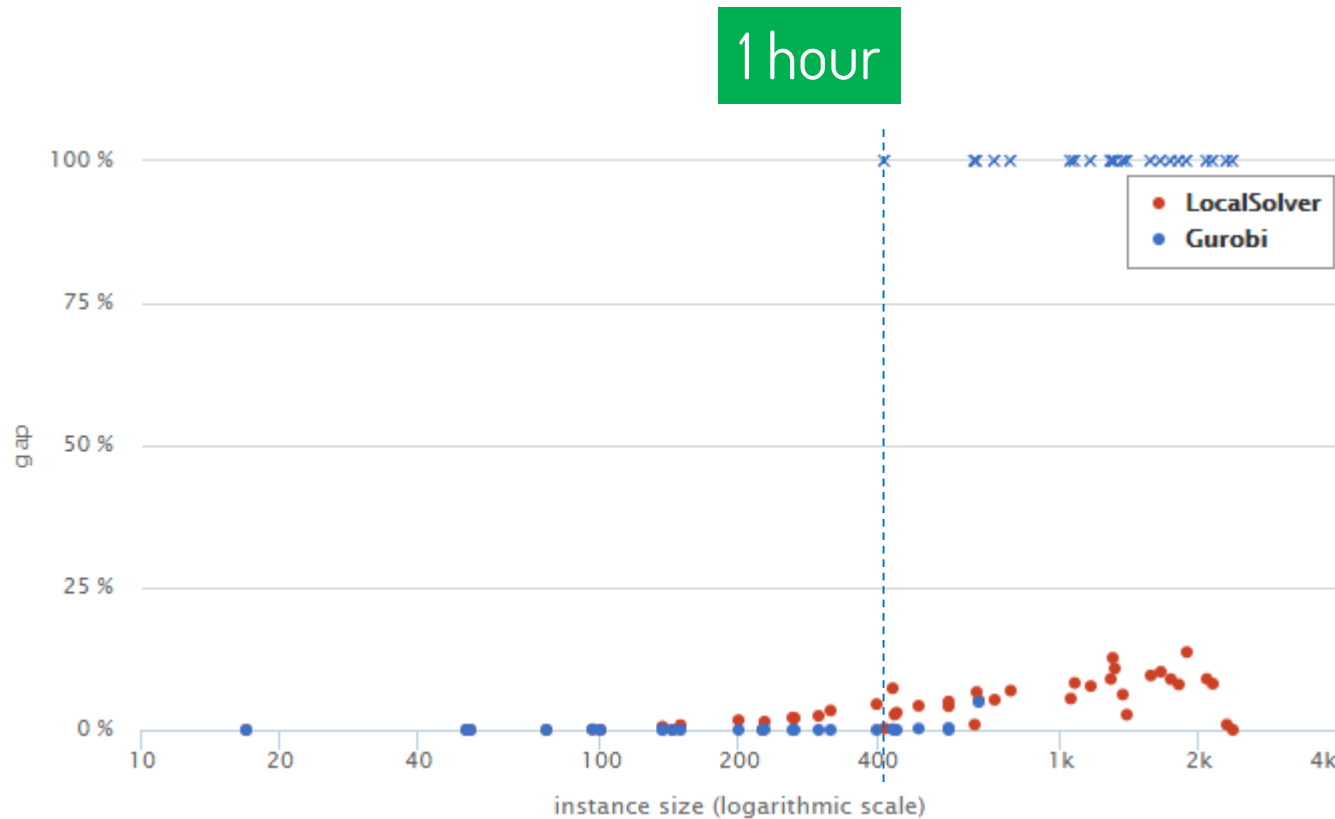


Comparison with MIP

TSP Lib instances

- Symmetric
- Size: 21 to 800 cities (and more)

x ⇔ no solution found



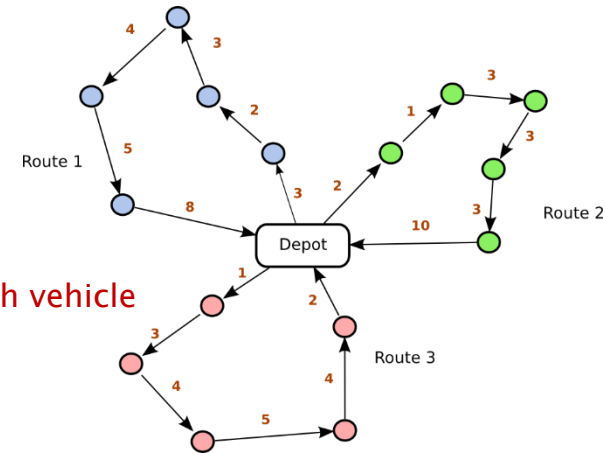
Gurobi 6.0

LocalSolver 6.0

Vehicle routing

Find the shortest set of routes for a fleet of K vehicles in order to deliver to a given set of N customers

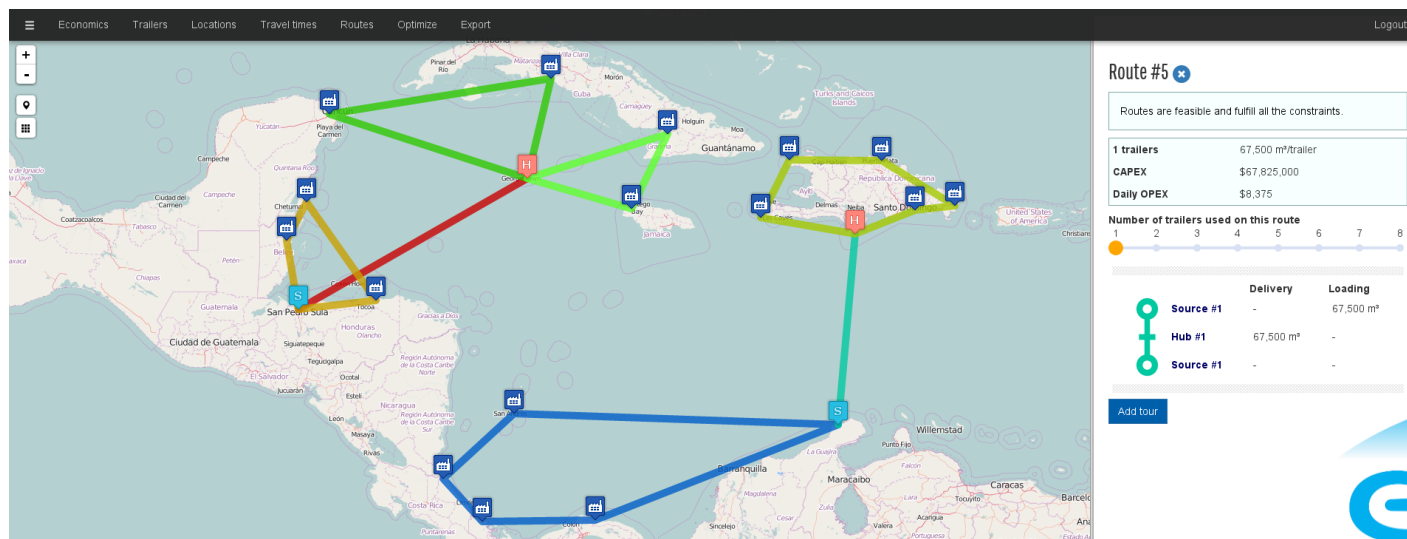
```
function model() {  
  x[1..K] <- list(N); // for each vehicle, order the clients to visit  
  constraint partition( x[1..K] ); // each client is visited once  
  distances[k in 1..K] <- sum[i in 1..N-1]( dist( x[k][i-1], x[k][i] )  
    + dist( x[k][N-1], x[k][0] ); // traveled distance for each vehicle  
  minimize sum[k in 1..K]( distances[k] ); // minimize total traveled distance  
}
```



Real-life VRP

LNG supply chain design

- LNG routes: sources/hubs → hubs/clients
- Sizing trailers and client/hub storages
- Until 10 sources/hubs and 100 clients



Direct LocalSolver approach: no simplification, no decomposition

Beyond routing problems

Planning, sequencing, scheduling



Search docs

Installation & licensing

Quick start guide

Advanced features

LSP Reference Manual

Example tour

Toy

Knapsack

P-median

Branin function

Optimal bucket

Smallest circle

Max cut

Social golfer

Car sequencing

Steel mill slab design

K-means

Travelling salesman problem

Quadratic assignment problem

Flowshop

Vehicule routing problem

Python API Reference

C++ API Reference

Java API Reference

Docs » Example tour

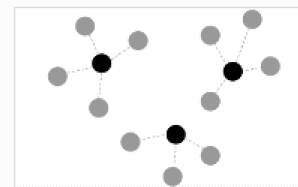
Example tour



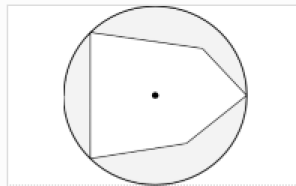
Toy ★



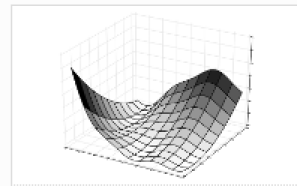
Knapsack ★



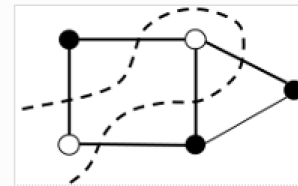
P-median ★



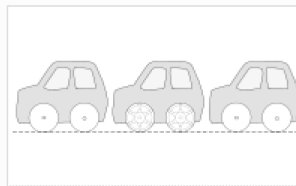
Smallest circle ★



Branin function ★



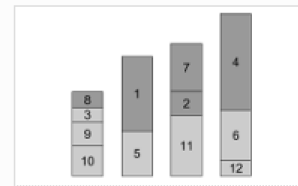
Max cut ★



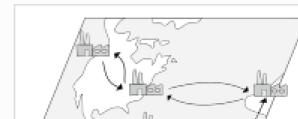
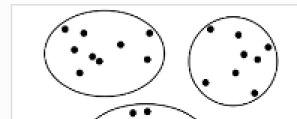
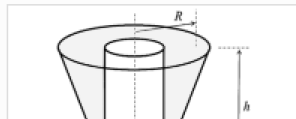
Car sequencing ★★



Social golfer ★★



Steel mill slab design ★★



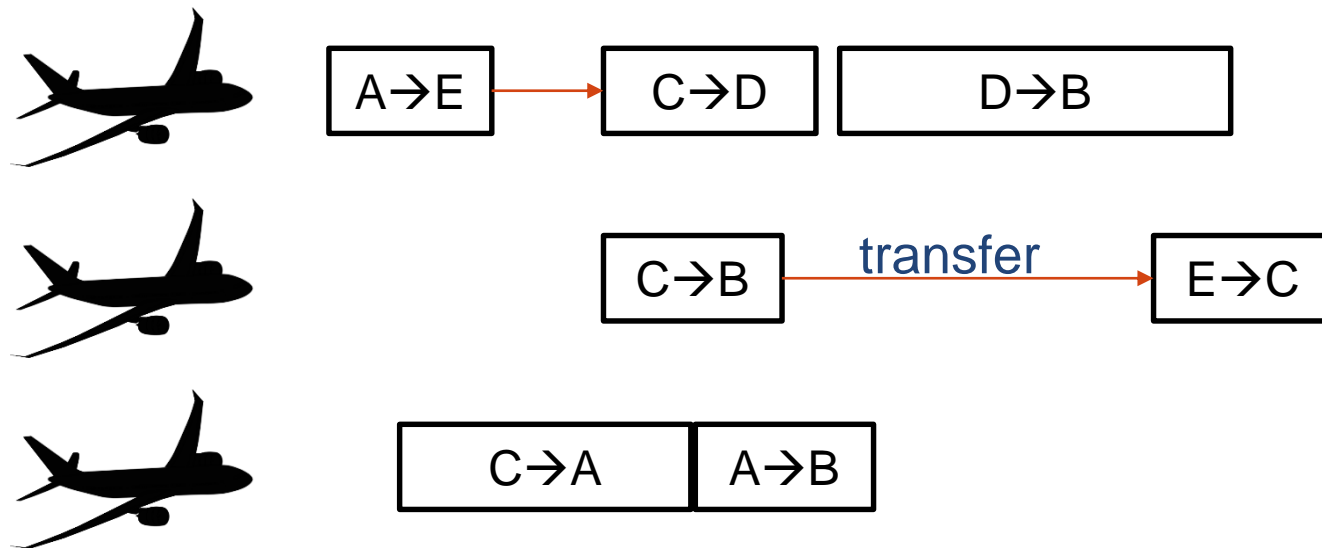
List variables



Uberising private jet business

Flights to plane assignments

STELLAR
www.stellar.aero



A solution is a partition of flights into K lists (one per plane)

The goal is to minimize the total transfer times





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